

Our Last Hour

Abu Saifillah 'Abdul-Qaadir

All of us are familiar with the signs of the Day of Judgement. They are mentioned in the Qur'aan and many ahaadeeth. However there is another Hour that is on an individual level and it is just as important. This Hour is so important that we must be aware of it.

This Hour I am talking about is described in the hadeeth of al-Bukhaaree & Muslim:

"If this boy lives, by the time he is old and decrepit; your hour would have already taken place."

This is the Hour that each and every individual will experience. It will be a deciding time for us, as our actions will have come to an end. This in fact is our Hour and it is inevitable, that every soul shall taste it. Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) says:

"Everyone shall taste death. And only on the Day of Resurrection shall you be paid your wages in full. And whoever is removed away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise, he indeed is successful. The life of this world is only the enjoyment of deception (a deceiving thing)."

[Soorat Aali 'Imraan, 3:185]

After this day, my brothers and sisters, our deeds will come to an end - we can only then look forward to our reckoning. So the question we must ask ourselves before it is too late is:

"What have we prepared for our Hour?"

Is it Eemaan, a good deed, or disbelief and corruption we have sent forth? The beauties of this life that we have attained - may it be a large house, the latest cars, a high position in our careers or wealth - we find that we give too much of our precious time, effort and thought to attaining these worldly goals.

These worldly endeavours which end at the grave, we strive so hard for with the abilities that Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) has blessed us with. We use these blessings from Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) for doing other than what we were created for and to disobey him. We strive for the dunyaa and we do not put as much effort into doing righteous deeds for our next life, which will be our only "currency" with our Lord. It is as if we have forgotten the report by our mother, 'Aa'ishah (radee Allaahu 'anhaa) that Allaah's Messenger (sall-Allaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said:

"The two rak'aat at dawn are better than this world and what it contains."
[Saheeh Muslim]

How much of our time and effort do we give to doing what Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) loves and is pleased with and not doing what He (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) hates or is displeased with? How much time do we spend reading the Qur'aan and ahaadeeth like the following:

"When an infidel is about to leave the world and proceed to the next, Angels with black harsh faces come down to him from the Heaven with haircloth of fire and sit

away from him as far as an eye can see. The Angel of death comes and sits at his head and says: 'O wicked soul, come out to the displeasure from Allaah.' The soul becomes dissipated in the body, and the Angel of Death draws it out as violently as a spit is drawn out from moistened wool. He then seizes it, and when he does so, the other Angels do not leave the disbelieving soul in his hand for an instant, but put it in that hair-cloth and from it comes forth a smell like the most offensive corpse found on the Earth." [Ahmad, Abu Daawood & al-Haakim]

Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) says:

"And if you could see when the angels take away the souls of those who disbelieve (at death), they smite their faces and their backs, (saying): 'Taste the punishment of the blazing Fire.' This is because of that which your hands had forwarded. And verily, Allaah is not unjust to His slaves." [Soorat ul-Anfaal, 8:50-51]

Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) comes with the angels in ranks, with 70.000 angels - so fear Him. Whoever truly believes in this has certainty and no doubt concerning this, then they would act upon this belief, and do righteous deeds. They are the ones who are on true guidance and shall be successful as Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) says:

"...and they believe with certainty in the Hereafter. (Resurrection, recompense of their good and bad deeds, Paradise and Hell, etc.). They are on (true) guidance from their Lord, and they are the successful." [Soorat ul-Baqarah, 2:4-5]

So my dear brothers and sisters do not be of those who delay repentance for their evil wicked deeds. Hasten to repentance before you face the hour after which your repentance will not be accepted.

As the hadeeth states:

"Allaah will accept the repentance until the death rattle starts."

Really my dear brothers and sisters, I urge you to be of those who are described in this aayaat:

"Verily, those who say: 'Our Lord is Allaah (Alone),' and then they Istaqaamu, on them the angels will descend (at the time of their death) (saying): 'Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!' We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have (all) that your inner selves desire, and therein you shall have (all) for which you ask for. An entertainment from (Allaah), the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." [Soorat Fussilat, 41:30-32]

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